

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of
Glen W. Knox

Application No. 09/233,394

Filed: 1/19/99

For: OTOLOGIC PROSTHESES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231



: Examiner:

: Group Art Unit:

RECEIVED

MAR 18 1999

Group 3700

3738
IDS/#2
Jina
3-30-99

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

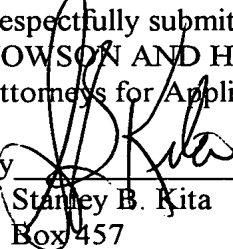
The following documents are submitted to the examiner, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56 and 1.97. Form PTO-1449 is attached and copies of the references are enclosed herewith. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted more than three months from the filing date of this application, but prior to receipt of a first Office Action on the merits. No fees or declarations are necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to our deposit account number 08-3040.

Several disclosed patents describe methods and apparatus for treating otosclerosis. Otosclerosis is an abnormal bone growth caused by softening and hardening of minute areas of the ossicles (malleus, incus and stapes) in ears. These structural changes impede conduction of sound vibration from the eardrum to the inner ear, resulting in hearing loss. In these patents all or part of the stapes, a stirrup shaped bone, is removed and replaced with a prosthesis.

Patents that are indicated in the specification include: on page 3, U.S. Patent to Causse '689 cited on line 20 and U.S. Patent to Shea, Jr '869 cited on line 24; and on page 4 U.S. Patent to Armstrong '468 cited on line 4 and U.S. Patent to Clifford '749 cited on line 12. Each of these patents describe prostheses for stapes implants.

Respectfully submitted,
HOWSON AND HOWSON
Attorneys for Applicant

By


Stanley B. Kita
Box 457

Spring House Corp. Center
Spring House, Pennsylvania 19477
Telephone 215 540 9202
Facsimile 215 540 5818

SBK/kbk
encs.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed to: Asst. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Signature _____

Date _____

U. S. PATENTS

- (AA) U. S. Patent No. 3,191,188, issued June 29, 1965
- (AB) U. S. Patent No. 3,196,462, issued June 27, 1965
- (AC) U. S. Patent No. 3,711,869, issued Jan 23, 1973
- (AD) U. S. Patent No. 3,838,468, issued Oct 1, 1974
- (AE) U. S. Patent No. 3,931,648, issued Jan 13, 1976
- (AF) U. S. Patent No. 4,292,693, issued Oct 6, 1981
- (AG) U. S. Patent No. 4,740,209, issued April 26, 1988
- (AH) U. S. Patent No. 5,171,240, issued Dec 15, 1992
- (AI) U. S. Patent No. 5,370,689, issued Dec 6, 1994
- (AJ) U. S. Patent No. 5,433,749, issued July 18, 1995